RUARY ATLANTIC. IV.

STONES OF STUMBLING. "When preparations for the last election opened not merely true statesmen but sagacious party managers," says Mr. Dorman B. Eaton, forgetting again what he had said about the identity of true statesmanship with sagactous party management, "perceived that the rolling stone of reform, which the officers at Washington had rejected and sent back to the people, was by no means crushed, but would crush the builders if not put into the new edifice. Both parties * * * declared for the very policy so lately discarded. It could be used to catch votes if not as a foundation to build upon."

There is one "true statesman" who is very badly

crushed by this remarkable "stone," but if he will lie still and not struggle, I think he can be got out alive. The stone, altogether too big and heavy for him to handle, is a conglomerate from sacred and profane literature. It appears first as a rolling stone. But what do we know about a rolling stone, except that it gathers no moss f A rolling stone is the type of all useless, ineffective things, among which Mr. Eaton surely does not wish to enroll his reterm. I hazard the conjectore that he had in his mind an indistinct reminiscence of the rolling snow-ball of his schoolboy days, which increases with every roll; but when he tapped on his brain and asked for that anow-ball, it gave him a stone, and he did not perceive the difference.

The rolling stone of reform which the officers at Washington had rejected." Here Mr. Eaton has unwittingly slipped off his rolling-stone and stepped upon the scriptural stone which the builders rejected and which afterwards became the head of the corner. But this is unfortunate, because no one supposes that the stone which the builders rejected was a rolling stone. If Mr. Eaten and his associates on the Civil Service Commission presented themselves to the officers at Washington with a rolling stone in their hands as the corner-stone of the new building, the officers at Washington did very right in rejecting it. Conceding Mr. Eaton's claims to "true statesmanship," I greatly fear he could not pass a competitive examination on masonry. My good neighbor, that staunch and stalwart old Federalist. Colonel "Tim" Pickering, was walking over his pleasant Wenham farm one Summer morning, refreshing himself after the fatigues and the slanders and the general abuse that beset a member of Washington's Cabinet, when a man came up and asked for work. "What can you do on a farm !" inquired Colonel Pickering.
"All kinds of work," said the man, off-hand.

"Do you know how to build a stone wall ?"

"Oh! yes: any fool knows that."

"Tell me how you do it, then."
"Well, nothin' much to tell. You jest have to set one stone on another." "No you don't!" thundered the irate Colonel;

"you have to set one stone on two! You can go." I suspect that Mr. Eaton was building better than he knew or meant when he perched his Reform edifice on rolling stones, and set it trundling down to what he euphuistically calls "the lowest point of the downward plane of the zigzag of progress"-

where at present it seems to stick fast in the mire. And who, again, is it that Mr. Eaton means by "the officers at Washington" who rejected his rolling stone ? Not the Civil Service officers, for it was not presented to them. I greatly fear me that Mr. that has more available patronage than all the Eaton is shipwrecked again on members of Congress -who are not officers at all. Since he is so much emharrassed in his nomenclature, how would it do for him to follow the example of the good wife who singles out her husband as the one man in all the world, and monopolizes for him the prenoun he? Rather than confuse his argument by applying to Congressmen an improper term, suppose Mr. Eaton arraign them for survey and sentence under a

But now Mr. Eaton's rolling stone gives another larch, and atways with a vicious certainty it lurches over on him. Rejected as a building stone, and very properly, as we have seen, it was by no means crushed, he says, but would crush the builders if not put into the new edifice. Still, by a sort of unconscious cerebration, Mr. Eaton is hammering away at the scriptural stone in one lobe of his statesmanlike brain, while he is grinding to powder the sagacious party managers in the other. But the scriptural stone was never in danger of being crushed. Whosoever should fall on it should be broken, and on whomsoever it should fall it would grind him to powder. Let Mr. Eaton notice that the people who were prodding and plottding around the stone were in danger, but not the stone it- in five hundred but had more fear of the unself. However, says Mr. Eaton, rushing on in known man that would be spring upon him spite of warning, "it"—that is, the policy, than of any one of the "great men" who that is, the corner-stone, that is, the rolling atone-"could be used to catch votes, if not as a foundation to build upon." How, Mr. Eaton? If it were a rolling stone, it must be round. If it were round, how could it catch anything? It is difficult to see how it could be used as underpinning; it is impossible to see how it could be used for a catch-all. The best thing for Mr. Eaton is to let it roll out of sight, confine himself henceforth to such mild missiles as words and grass, and not attempt to try what virtue there is in stones. He will be surprised to find how much can be done with words, if he but re

spect their limitations and their meaning. When Mr. Eaton is at length dragged out from under his untimely cairn, very much the worse for wear, and set upon his feet again, he shows that his affliction has not been sanctified to his spiritual good, by saving: "There were before the country men of eminence who had rendered great services, from among whom, according to partisan theories, the new President must be selected." Certainly the partisan theory does not show badly in this case. It would be difficult for "true statesmanship" to find a better theory than to select its Presidents from men of eminence who are before the country and who have rendered great services. If partisanship were so "mere" and so "mercenary," so "selfish and so "corrupt" as Mr. Eaton considers it, I marvel that it was so particular as to insist that a President should be chosen from the ranks of eminent and patriotic men. I wonder it information as to the bills presented for audit. did not mouse about among the lightfingered gentry who could be depended rant drawn on the State Treasurer and repaid by the companies examined, when certified copies, ap-proved by the superint-indeut, are presented. The vio-lation of the law is made a misdemennor, and any com-pany refasing to submit to examination, or withholding information, shall be deprived of its license to do bus-iness in this State. It is further provided that the su-perintendent shall amoually report the probable amount needed to defray the necessary expenses of examination, and the Legislature is required to appro-priate such sums as it shall deem sufficient for the par-pose, the amount expended to be refunded by the com-panies. The bill also permits insurance companies of the State to invest in the securities of any adjorating upon for a "steal," or search for some unknown man whose public reputation would not be a guarantee. or whose love of country, evinced by great services rendered, would not be a presumption against subsequent plunder and betrayal. But no; it was not only the partisans who were seeking a leader among eminent men, it was the "common politicians" also, the men without intelligence. "At the outset of the campaign," says Mr. Eaton, " not a politician in five hundred doubted that one of these great men would be the next President." So that Mr. Eaton represents the partisans, the politicians, the men without intelligence, as all agreed in selecting and expecting a President from among their great men, their widely-known men, the men who had rendered title of all real estate owned by companies examined, and the attorney may employ assistants to be paid by himself. The superintendent shall also appoint a general appraiser, who shall appraise, determine and report the fair market value of all real estate owned by any company examined. The attorney and appraiser shall take the constitutional official oath, and shall hold office during the pleasure of the superintendent. The attorney's salary shall be \$5,000, and that of the appraiser \$4,000 per anum, together with necessary travelling expenses, and be paid as other expenses of the department are now paid. No payments shall be made to any other persons for these services by either the State or by any insurance company examined. the country great services.

But the Reformers knew a more excellent way. Instead of taking a great man, an emment man, a man who had rendered great services, they thought it wiser to take on trust a man who was not known at all. Mr Eaton says: "The resolve for re-. soon declared for the nomination of a person before unrecognized by the Nation." It is true that Mr. Eaton is inaccurate as usual. In his desire to show how "umble" the Reformers were, how low down they would go for a candidate, he thrusts Mr. Bristow in as "a subordinate in the Treasury Department." But Mr. Bristow was never subordinate in the Treasury Department to the world's knowledge, except as Mr. Eaton put him there. He was never in the Treasury Department at all, until President Grant placed him at its head and made him his own confidential adviser. Mr Bristow had been Solicitor-General, an officer in the Department of Justice, and second only to the Attorney-General. To the "dunce," indeed, there seems a trifling difference between being at the head of one department or the heels of another, and it would hardly be safe for the "common politician" to make such a mistake; but "a person of intelligence" may indulge in these little antics with impunity. So without further ado let us go on to Mr. Eaton's boast, that "up to the time that Mr. Bristow contropted the whiskey ring. " " he had not been

ALBANY.

thought of for the Presidency"; that the "reforming

spirit at once made him-desutute as he was of

partisan support-a formidable rival of those, in

and best according to common standards, even when they were backed by the most powerful party organ-

izations and all the support which patronage can

command." Mr. Bristow did not become the nomi-

nee; he has gone back into private life, and it is not

necessary to discuss him. I only speak of the figure

which Mr. Eaton makes with him on the page of The

Atlantic Monthly. What I wish to draw attention to,

what I particularly wish to point out to the gentle-

man in politics, and to the scholar in politics, and to

all those who lament "the power of an inferior class

of politicians, and the studious exclusion of characteristics

ter in the selection of candidates," is the fact which

Mr. Dorman B. Eaton iterates and reiterates with-

out the smallest suspicion of its bearing, that it was

the partisaus, the politicians, "the spoilsmen," who

sought their candidate among their great men, their

eminent men, the men who had served the country

longest and best, and of whose character and fitness

the country was able to judge. It was the reform

ers who wanted an unknown man, a man who had

been a subordinate-if Mr. Eaton will have it so-

in the Treasury Department; and they wanted him,

not because he had evinced singular ability and

fidelity in managing that department, but because -Mr. Eaton distinctly says it -he had prosecuted and brought to punishment a set of men

who were charged with fraud upon his department.

I am not saying that Mr. Bristow was unfit for the

nomination, or that he would not have made a good

President; what I say is that the Reformers, by

their own showing, of their own choice, selected a

man of whom they avow that nothing was known,

and of whom they boast that he " had no chance for

the nomination, beyond the fact that he had shown

zeal and courage for administrative reform" by

prosecuting the whiskey ring. The prosecution of

a considerable number of hitherto respectable

American citizens, many of whom were acquitted or

dismissed without even trial, was the basis on

President of the United States.

which "true statesmen" would exultantly select the

Looking again at Mr. Enton's facts-and it is

never safe to trust him an inch beyond the record-

what does he mean by saving that his candidate was

had a right to have, all the partisan support he

used all the partisan means, that the Reformers could

muster. His partisans were not one whit behind

the very chiefest of the other partisans in the use of

own, but he has no right to stand up before the

American people and pretend that his candidate

was pointed out by the Spirit of Reform descending

from Heaven like a dove and resting upon him.

He was pointed out by the pulling of wires—the same old wires of the same old

machine that has shot up candidates, whether

pope or president, or emperor or delegate,

ever since candidacy existed. Mr. Eaton says the other candidates had all the support which patron-

age can give. What does the man mean? Not one

of the other candidates, nor all the other candidates

together, had "all the support which patronage can

give." They had only the support of such patronage

as Mr. Eaton's candidate could not command. His

candidate was at the head of the largest and strong-

est department of the Government---a department

other departments together-and all its patronage

was under his control. Just so far as it can ever

be used for the personal advantage of any of its

officers, it could be used for his. Mr. Dorman B.

Eaton is a "courageous spirit," indeed, when he

dares stand up and make so absolutely and palpa-

bly groundless an assertion.

Mr. Eaton's affirmation that "at the outset of the

campaign not a politician in five hundred doubted

that one of these great men would be the next Presi-

dent" is equally childish. I wish the statement

might have been correct. I wish the custom of our

country were such that not one politician in five hun-

dred should doubt that, whatever policy or whatever

party prevailed, one of our great men, one of our

eminent men, one of those who have served the

country longest and best, should be at the

head. Certainly that millennium had not

dawned "at the outset of the campaign.",

Where Mr. Eaton got his statistics it is diffi-

cult to see. It would be nearer the truth to say

that there was not one politician in five hundred

who did not doubt. But it was not Mr. Bristow

they feared; it was the man that the Reformers

would trade Mr. Bristow off for! Not one politician

were the natural and honorable rivals of

fear that "the Great Unknown" became a prover-

all this conjecture and speculation and grave dis-

walked deaf and blind, and now rises up, with all

that one of our political great men would be the

next President! Gail Hamilton.

INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS,

BILLS INTRODUCED BY MR. GRAHAM, CHAIRMAN OF

THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

of the Insurance Committee of the Assembly, intro-duced two bills to-day. The first is in relation to the ex-

amination of life insurance companies and the invest

ments of said companies, embodies the provisions of last year's bill, as to the mode of procedure in making exam-

inations of life insurance companies, which are to be made once in five years, and provides

proved by the Superintendent and audited by the

Controller as now required by law; but before such

bills are audited, the Controller shall give to the offi-

cers of the company examined five days' notice of a day

when a hearing will be given in regard to the audit; and

the Controller is authorized to compel the attendance

of any insurance officers or other persons, and require

bills, when audited, are to be paid by war-

pose, the amount expended to be refinited by the com-panies. The bill also permits insurance companies of time State to invest in the securities of any adjoining State, the law now restricting them to Connectical and New-Jersey.

Mr. Graham's second bill provides for the appointment

of additional officers in the State Insurance Department.

It authorizes the superintendent to appoint an attorney,

who shall be his legal adviser, and whose duty it shall

be in all examinations to examine and report as to the

title of all real estate owned by companies examined,

A BODY FOUND AT FORT HAMILTON.

The body of a man, apparently about fifty

years of age, with dark hair slightly sprinkled with gray,

was found, yesterday, in the water at Fort Hamilton. was iound, yesternay, in the water at Fort Hamilton.
Staten Island. The body was clothed in a dark diagonal
cloth coat, dark trousers and waistcont, two white kuit
undershirts, a white shirt, knit drawers, long wooles
socks, Oxford-tie shoes, black enamelied sleeve buttons
and three patent-riveted pearl studs. The body is much
decomposed.

EXAMINATION OF A BANK ROBBER.

DEXTER, Me., March 22 .- Jemmie Hope,

ias James Watson, was examined this forenoon before

Justice Crosby, in the City Hall, on a charge of breaking

nto and entering the Dexter Savings Bank, on the night

of July 20, 1875, and was committed in \$10,000 bonds

for trial. He will be taken to the Bangor fail to night. Hope was not engaged in the murder of Trensurer Barron, he being in the jail of Haddam, Conn., at that time, it is certain that Hope was one of the men who robbed the Winthrop Bank in 1875.

rant drawn on the State Treasurer and repule

that all bills for examinations shall

ALBANY, Marc's 22 .- Mr. Graham, chairman

DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITAL. ARGUMENTS IN THE SMYTH TRIAL-LEGISLATION FOR either party, who had served the country longest NEW-YORK-INSURANCE BILLS-A CONFESTED

> SEAT. The Senate was engaged yesterday in hearing arguments of counsel for and against Superintendent Smyth. In the Assemby, Mr. Graham, chairman of the Insurance Committee, reported bills providing for the examination of life insurance companies, and the appointment of additional officers in the Insurance Department. Mr. Fish's general bill for the reduction of salaries of city officials was reported favorably. Dr. Hayes introduced a bill for the preservation of Washingtonsquare as a public park; the bill for the restoration of Thompkins-square was passed. Resolutions of inquiry were introduced relative to the reduction of teachers' salaries in New-York, and to the elevated railroad companies. The seat for the XIVth District of New-York was awarded by a majority of the committee to Charles H. Duell, the contestant.

> > GENERAL LEGISLATION.

THE PRESERVATION OF WASHINGTON SQUARE AND THE RESTORATION OF TOMPKINS SQUARE -TEACHERS' SALARIES IN NEW-YORK-THE ELE-VATED RAILROADS.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. ALBANY, March 22 .- Washington Park, New-York, is to be protected by the State from destruction by the Aldermen of that city. Dr. Isaac I. Hayes introduced a bill for this purpose in the Assembly to-day. It provides that "the public park or place or square in the City of New York, known as Washington Square, or Washington Parade Ground, shall be used in perpetuity as one of the public parks or squares or places of said city, and shall be kept by the Department of Pablic Parks in proper order, ornamented and protected for the public use as a public park, and for no other use or The boast has sometimes been made by the supporters of the policy of the Board of Aldermen that they could obtain the Legislature's permission to surrender part of the park for an armory site. The spirit of the Legislature is directly the reverse. as was proven this morning when a bill of Mr. Daly's came up for consideration. The estensible object of this bill was to authorize the Board of Aldermen of New-York to direct the Commissioners of Parks to restore that dreary waste known as Tompkins Square as a public park. The bill was put upon its passage, and for destitute of all partisan support? He had, as he several minutes there was a steady roar of "ayes" till enough had been uttered to pass the bill. At last it came could get. He had all the partisan support, and the turn of Mr. Moller to vote. Mr. Muller, aithough sent to Albany by a Westchester County constituency, has a place of business in New-York, and is well acquainted with its affers. Mr. Moller pointed out to the Assembly that the first section of the bill read as follows: means. Mr. Eaton has the inalienable right of every American citizen to have a candidate of his

The Contagon Council of the City of New-York is The Connection Council of the City of New-Fork is hereby authorized to direct the Commissioners of Parks to set apart for the use of the National Guard such portion of any of the parks or places under their control or management as may be necessars to enable the said National Guard to drill and parade, and to perform such other evolutions as bave been hitherto performed by said National Guard in Tompkins Square, in said city.

Mr. Moller said that he was strongly opposed to the National Guard using any of the parks of the city as a parade ground. But this was not not by any means the feature of the bill that he desired to call the attention of the Assembly to. The section, as he read it, would permit the Board of Aldermen to direct the Park Commission-ers to set apart a portion for regiments to build armories upon. This was the very thing the people of upon. This was the very thing the people of New-York were loudly protesting against. He should vote "No" upon the bill. The anti-Tammany members, including Mr. Daly, there-upon changed their votes, twoscore other members from the country followed their example, and the bill was defeated. Mr. Daily persuaded the Assembly to reconsider the vote, however, and struck out the obnexious first cetion. In this shape it passed the Assembly by a vote of 73 to 3. The bill now merely provides that " The Common Conneil of New-York is hereby authorized to direct the Commissioners of Parks to restore Tompkins square

Mr. Seebacher, one of the New-York members, is curious about the system adopted by the Board of Education when it reduced the salaries of teachers, lately. He

ntroduced the following resolution to-day:

Resolved. That the Board of Education of the City of
Cow York be requested to furnish forthwith the followinformation:

g information: First-Under the rale recently adopted by said board,

their respective schools?

Third—Why is the distinction made between prin-

The elevated railroads of New-York City have been the subject of several resolutions since the Legislature met, Rockland County, offered the following resolution on the

his own candidate. So universal was this matter this morning: Resolved. That the Committee on Railroads, while in-Reconstruction has the further legislation is necessary to compel the elevated railroads in New-York City to extend their treess in conformity with the requirements of their respective charters, is also hereby required to investigate as to the truth of the charges made in the public press, to the effect that the New-York Elevated Railroad and the Gilbert Elevated Railroad have entered into a combination whereby the latter company is to discontinue to truck upon the West Side of the city. And do it forther bial phrase for this masquerading rival; and through cussion and jest and badinage, Mr. Dorman B. Eaton the majesty of the "intelligent contraband," to tell ns that not one politician in five hundred doubted

bill or otherwise, what legislation is becessary to competitives companies to compty with their charters. Mr. Bertgan is solicitous for the welfare of the inhab-itants of New-York—and the owners of slaughter-houses and kindred buildings. He introduced a bill to-day decarring time saughtering, rendering, glue-making and hide-curling shall hereafter be done in the buildings now occupied by those trades and in no others. In other words, the owners of these buildings are to have a monopoly of providing buildings for the use of the trades mentioned. taring that slaughtering, rendering, glue-making and

The stream of petitions in favor of a modification of the Excise Law has again begun to flow. Petitions of this nature were received from Hornellsville, Rochester, Binghamton, Middletown, Poughkeepsle, Lockport, Lyons, Brooklyn and Buffalo. Petikeepsle, Leckport, Lyons, Brookiyn and Buffalo. Petitions were also received against any modification of the law. Two hundred and ten inhabitants of Westmore land township. Oneida County, sign their names to the following tersely expressed petition for a bill for the superession of tramps: "We the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Westmore-land respectfully ask your honorable body to pass an act providing places where the tramps of the State may be secured and made to earn their living." A large number of petitions were received from farmers, asking for the passage of a law permitting the formation of mutual insurance companies with small capital, for the insurance of farm buildings. Politions were also received in favor of the passage of a law for the appointment of rail-road commissioners.

Mr. Terry, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, submitted a mejority report on the con-tested seat case for the Fourteenth District, New-York, of Duell against Clark, couclading with a resolution giving the seat to Charles H. Duell, the contestant. Mr. Piper said it was contemplated to make a minority re-port, but he had only yesterday afternoon seen, the re-port and could not say when the indnority report would be made.

ECONOMY IN CITIES.

MR. FISH'S BILL FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALARIES OF CITY OFFICIALS REPORTED FAVORABLY.

ROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. ALBANY, March 22 .- A general bill for the eduction of the salaries of city officials throughout the state was, some time ago, introduced in the Assembly by Hamilton Fish, jr. The Committee on Cities, after making some modifications in it, unanimously reported the will favorably to the Assembly, to-day. Mr. Fish obtained the consent of the Assembly that the bill should be especially considered on Tues-day, April 2. By it the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New-York will be given the power, which it professes to desire, of reducing the salpower, which it processes to desire, or remains the salaries and fees of the city officers whose salaries are not protected by the constitutional prohibition against reducing the salaries of officers elected by the people. The rate of reduction "shall be 20 per cent less than the rate of the aggregate amount paid for salaries for the first quarter of the present year. In order that the bill may be understood by every taxpayer, it is given in full

below:

SECTION 1. The local authority hereinafter specified, in each of the cities of the State, is hereby authorized to fix, determine, and regulate the free, percentages, allowances or saiaries, provided for by tax, of all public officers which are a charge against said city, or payable from the City Treasory.

SEC. If. For the purpose of this act the local authority in each city shall be the Common Council thereof, except in those cities where a Board of Estimate and Apportionment exists pursuant to law, and in such cities the local authority shall be such Board of Estimate and Auportionment.

Apportionment the said board shall on or before July 1, 1878, reviee the appropriations for the present year, payable out of the City Treasury, and make all practicable reductions therein. It shall especially be the duty of said board to reapportion the moneys payable out of the City Treasury directly or indirectly for the salarice of officers and employes paid at fixed

yearly rates in such manner that by discharging unnecessary officers and employes and reducing the salaries of those retained there shall be a reduction for the remainder of the present year. In the aggregate amount of the salaries payable directly or indicetly out of the City Treasury at such a rate that the same shall be 20 per cent less than the rate of the aggregate amount, of the salaries payable, paid for salaries for the first quarier of the present year.

SEC. 4. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall deliver to the Controller a statement of the amounts apportioned by it for the remainder of the present year to the several departments of the City Government and other official organizations and separate officers, specifying what part of each amount is for the salaries of officers and employés. All subsequent payments from the City Treasury shall be upon the basts of the new apportionment, except that the apportionment for salaries shall take effect on the first day of the month next after the one in which such statement is delivered to the Controller, and all payments for salaries for any period after that day shall be at the rate anthorized by the new apportionment, and the officers and employés receiving such salaries shall receipt therefor in full payment for theft services. A duplicate of such part of the sala statement as shall affect any department, organization or separate officer shall be delivered to the chief officer of the department or organizations so as to bring the salaries of those who may be retained within the limit of the new apportionment, and if in any case such reduction shall not be made by the Controller. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment and organization a statement of the number and substress of the officers of the such department and organization in statement of the number and substress of the officers and employés thereof estimated to be accessary by the said board in making the new apportionment.

new apportionment.

SEC. 5. Every provision of law establishing the rate or amount of any salary payable directly or indirectly out of the City Treasury, crout of any money of the city or county, except such as have been passed at the present session of the Legislature, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

SUPERINTENDENT SMYTH'S TRIAL. ARGUMENTS OF HENRY SMITH FOR THE DEFENCE

AND MATTHEW HALE FOR THE PROSECUTION-

A VOTE TO BE TAKEN ON WEDNESDAY. ALBANY, March 22 .- The Senate met at 10 o'clock, when the Hon. Henry Smith, of counsel for Superintendent of Insurance Smyth, continued the argument for the defence. He said a little more than one year ago, John F. Smyth was appointed Superintendent of Insurance by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. To-day, this efficial thus honored a year ago, stands before you, accused by the same power which appointed him, of abusing the powers of the office. The respondent came into office at a period of great agitation, of great disturbance in the business affairs of the country, and of great distrust as to the solvency of the insurance companies in the State. On his access to office, he entered into a most thorough examination of the affairs of the companies. Just before the present Superintendent was appointed, the Continental Insurance Company, which was supposed to be staunch and secure, failed. This discovery startled and alarmed the community, and the people demanded that all the communies should be examined, so that the people who held policies might know that they were warranted in continuing to pay premiuma, and with the certainty that the terms of their policies would be carried out in good faith by the communies. Connect then quoted from the law governing the insurance Department the sections bearing on the matter of the expenses of that department. He found by the Appropriation Bill of 1876, certain appropriations unde for the general expenses of the Insurance Department, which sams are to be returned to the department, which sams are to be returned to the department, which sams are to be returned to the department by the several insurance companies, but nothing about an examination. There was a demand for examinations to determine the solvency of the companies. The New-York Life Insurance Commany had 40,000 policies out, and it required nice and delicate computations to arrive at a correct solution of alarmed the community, and the people demanded that

turned to the department by the several instance was a demand for examinations to determine the solvency of the companies. The New-York Life Instrance Commany had 40,000 policies out, and it required nice and delicate computations to arrive at a correct solution of the question as to the ability of the company to secure to each person insured the provisions of the contract as required by the policies. No law can be found on the statute books as to the charges to be made for examinations. But for the law of 1873 the Superintendent might have increased the force of his office as nature as he pleased, and collected for services directly from the companies. The Superintendent did not deare to create any liability against the State; and, not dearing to avoid any of the provisions of the law, and not being able to create a debt under the law, he came to the Legislature and asked for a law which woull enable the work of examination to proceed in a binstness-like way.

It has been herabled throughout the State that this was a scheme of Mr. Smyth to reward his political friends. But that is not true. The Governor, however, allowed a bill which had passed both Houses with singular unanimity to fall for lack of his signature. Thus His Excellency thwarted the wishes of nearly every member of the Legislature. State officials have on other occasions dieregarded the law, and were not accused of treason. He instances the case of Judge Allen, who, when Controller, refused to pay over a certain sain for an ebservatory for Union College. The conege folks endeavored to case of Judge Allen, who, when Controller, refused to pay over a certain sain for an ebservatory for Union College. The conege folks endeavored to case of Judge Allen, who, when Controller, refused to pay over a certain sain for an ebservatory for Union College. The conege folks endeavored to core him by mandamus, but his course was sustained by the people. The intemperate language of the Governor's presentation of the case to the Scate indicates that His Excellency true to the audit of the Controller. Con sel for the neopasked! Why get a inwyer from Fort Heavy to examine titles of property in New-York! Mr. Smith replathat if he wanted his work done fathfully at well he would employ a painstaking country news and as to the question of charges, the ability of hwyer should be considered. This legal firm staked their preparation when they passed upon the \$19,000,000, olifies held by the New-York Life Instance Compan Why did they not call Mr. Tober if they wanted to know hat became of the balance of the \$20,000 Rm they do not do so, and yet, by intends counset for the peopwould have Senators believe that part of it was used foolities by purposes. In conclusion, he asked each Sentorto be an hovest judge and pay no attention to 1a hear circulars which are being freely sent to Senators.

MR. HALE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Mr. Matthew Hale, counsel for the people, said Sup ntendent Smyth had frequently violated chapter 593 of the Laws of 1873. He read from charges made in the Miller investigation of 1872, with reference to payments Miller investigation of 1872, with reference to payments made to examiners, and also extracts from a speech stade by Mr. Tobey denouncing Miller for allowing counsel to receive fees from companies. Mr. Hale said it was a pity that Mr. Tobey was not here now, that his voice might be heard denouncing the action of the present Superintendent, which has been an hindered fold worse than any ever charged against any previous superintendent. Counsel called attention to the evidence of Deputy Superindent McCall, with reference to the bill of Messrs. Tobey, Waldo & Grover, wherein he (McCall) warned Superintendent Smyth that all bills should be anditted by the Controller. Mr. Smyth replied that he understood the matter and was determined to proceed. The opinion which Schator Harris furnished Superintendent Smyth, with reference to the constitutionality of the law, was a fraud and a sham. Mr. Hale related the application of the Universal Life to the constitutionality of the law, was a fraud and a sham. Mr. Hale related the superintendent Smyth added, to have the bills of his examiners also paid. The company conscuted to this simply because it desired to have the means to protect itself. Mr. Hale then related the account of the visit of Mr. Knox to Albony, to secure the latter hurrying off to New-York to harry up the report of Messrs. Tobey, Waldo & Grover, and the atbeequent hurried appearance of their report. Counsel insisted that Superintendent Smyth deliberately violated all law, apparently to reward political friends. The insurance companies of the State were loaded with Superintendent Smyth and his son and elecks, with Senator Harris and partner, and with Mr. Tobey's law firm. He said the paragraph in a New-York paper saving his firm (Hand, Haie & Swartz) had received \$3,000 for two days' service, was untrue with reference to the amount of work performed.

Mr. Hale reviewed at length the bills of Hz ris & Rudd for examining abstracts, and said he had made computations and found that each young man of the firm was made to examiners, and also extracts from a speech

Mr. Hale reviewed at length the bills of Hz ris & Rudd for examining abstracts, and said he had made computations and found that each young man of the firm was paid \$119 87 per day for the examination of these abstracts. He said: What did Mr. Tobey want of \$24,000 in bills I Eleven thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars went to Mr. Grover, and for the balance of \$13,000, what became of it! It would be interesting to know how much Tobey contributed to the electioneering fund. The facts proven in this case will for all time damn Superintendent Smyth in the eyes of policy-holders of the lustrance companies. That officer had levied tribute upon the companies, and he should be removed.

The case being closed, the Senate agreed to take a final rote on the question of removal next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock in open session.

A BAND OF COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED CINCINNATI, March 22.-Four men and our woman were arrested in this city last evening, by United States Detective Rathbone, charged with dealing in counterfeit coin. The party consisted of Casmir Lohn Louisa Lohr, William Ostendorp, "Dave" Bard and Edward J. Smith. They were part of the notorious Bill "Mills's gang, the leader or which, two years ago, was sent to the penticulary for fifteen years.

MEMPRIS, Tenn., March 22 .- Jacob Bybart, of the Casted States Service, to-day arrested Emil Krupper schmid, of Concinnati, and his brother Robert, of Me phis, on the charge of counterfeiting. In their possession was found \$484 of counterfeit coin; also a complete se of counterfeiter's toois. Endi admitted that he has coince over \$2.000 since reaching this city, and that he belonged to a Chechmati band of counterfeiters.

PLANS OF TAMMANY'S OPPONENTS. The Everett House group of the opponent of Tammany Hall met last evening, and held a long ses sion, but no business of public interest was transacted.
Reports received showed a membership of over 400 in
the various Assembly Districts. A committee of seven
was appointed to arrange the details for a public meet
ing, looking to a permanent organization. LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE LETTER OF PUBLIUS LENTULUS. THURLOW WEED ADMITS THAT IT IS PROBABLY A FORGERY-CONTEMPORANEOUS HISTORY REGARD-

ING CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: The criticisms occasioned by the reproduction in your paper of a letter purporting to have been written by a President in Judea, describing the person and perfections of our Saviour, were not wholly unexpected. I met with and published that letter sixty years ago, at Norwich, Chenango County. It was subsequently reproduced in Onondaga and Rochester, where I also published papers. During forty years no doubt had been raised, within my knowledge, of its authenticity. Some twenty-five years ago, I first met with an article which charged that the letter was a forgery, perpetrated by a monk. Either because I was without facilities nec essary to the investigation of that charge, or that I was too much absorbed in other duties, the matter passed out of my mind. I did not, however, regard the evidence in favor of the charge of forgery as conclusive; nor did I relinquish a long cherished belief that a description of our Saviour, harmonizing in all respects with what we believe, was apocryphal. The portraits of our Saviour, by Michael Angelo

Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci, which I was privi-leged to see and admire in Italy, but more especially the great masterpiece of Titian, his wonderful head of Christ, in the gallery at Dresden, all, as far as canvas, easel and brush can go in art, reflecting the face, features and expression, so beaut fully described in the letter of Publius Lentulus strengthened my confidence in its authenticity, To all this, it would be said, that one better informed in Biblical literature would not now have made himself responsible for the authenticity of this letter. This is quite true, and yet the very best informed upon these profoundly important questions who seek for contemporary evidences of the events connected with the mission, miracles, sufferings and death of our Saviour and His Apostles, find themselves groping in the dark. What is there, for example, in profanhistory to prove that our Saviour was arraigned, tried and condemned in Jerusalem, and publicly crucified on the Hill of Calvary, outside of the gates, in sight of the city? Indeed, now that the only recognition of the Saviour in Josephus is claimed to be an interpolation, what particle of evidence is there in contemporaneous history of His existence? Or where, but in the New Testament, are we to look for evidence that Stephen was tried and sentenced in Jerusalem, and inhumanly stoned to death by an

infurnated multitude in a suburb of the city? My critics in their Biblical researches for evidence that the letter of Publius Lentulus is a forgery, find what they regard as conclusive authority for charging that all other important contemporaneous history regarding Christianity has been repudiated. We are not any longer permitted to believe that either Josephus, Tacitus or Pliny the Younger recognized either any of the truths of Christianity or the persecutions of its early followers. Happily, Christians do not need the concuring testimony of the Neros by whom the early followers of our Saviour were burned and butchered. So far, however, as such concurring testimony is needed, we have it in the case of St. Paul, whose own statement that he sat in his youth at the feet of Gamaliel is fully confirmed by contemporaneous history. It is proper to add that the eminent Dr. Paley, in his "Evidences of Christianity," furnishes so many auxiliary evidences, so many historical coincidences, and so many incidental testimonies rendering sacred and profane history in accord, that the doubts of intelligent and unprejudiced readers cannot fail to be removed.

I confess that I do not relinquish the idea of the authenticity of the Lentulus letter without regret. I had dwelt upon it fondly more than half a century, but I must not in my devotion to an ideal, however beautiful, appropriate Moore's poetic description of

fanaticism: The babe may cease to think that it can play
With heaven's rainbow;—alchemists may doubt
The shining gold their cruelible giv s out;
But Faith, fanatic Faith, once wedded fast
To some dear falsehood, hugs it to the last.
New-York, March 22, 1878.

MR. COOK AND W. C. PRIME. THE CASTELLANI COLLECTION WORTH MORE THAN THE BID-MR. PRIME'S ARTICLES ON POTTERY AND PORCELAIN.
To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: Mr. Cook's answer to Mr. Wm. C. Prime's attempted explanation of his connection with the disposal of the Castellani collection is, to my mind, one of the most deserved rebukes lately administered to ters, when, in truth, they have no tangible feethold, exadherents, whose voices are not heard outside of the 'you tickle me, I tickle you' crowd. I think it disgust. ng that we should be controlled by such men. As a rule, "society " demands that one of their theorists shall have some position by which their "set" may be given an opportunity of letting off their knowledge on an unof-

If Mr. Cook had only struck in a little stronger, I think it would have saved the most of this class, and done them good. I hope Mr. Cook will stand by his principles, and not be browbcaten by any gentleman of leisure in his efforts to calcuste the people to a higher standard than is 4sught by Mr. Prime. The ear of the public should be given to men who have by hard work carned the right to it. mr. Prime has not added asything to his reputation by

is slanders on Mr. Castellani's character. And by the way, spenking of character, it would not be unlaterest, ng to know what the Museum will do with the money re ceived for extra admission to the Castellani room. I understood that the proceeds were to go toward the purchase of the collection, but now that it is gone from us, who takes the receipts I nediver I have about \$25 mers and there in admissions, and would be willing to give \$100 a year, during the, for the privilege of studying such a giorious gathering, the like of which will never again be seen If Mr. Prime had simply referred to any of the sales

within the past twenty-five years, he would have seen that no sale has ever averaged anything as low as his es timate or bid. Let him go back to the Bernal collection. sold just twenty-three years ago this month, and he will son a just twenty-trice years ago to have a see what pottery was thought of in those days. I have so-lected from the list 181 pieces, and see that the total reached \$85,009 or \$419 each, by an average. In this sale, there were very few pieces that were superior to the average in the Castellani collection.

I have locked up the notes I made at the time of the exhibition at the Centennial, as well as in New-York, when I made a rough estimate of the value, and I find that the pottery footed up to \$137,000. Now, Lelaim to know a little about pottery-not a theoretical knowledge, be it remembered-and assert that Mr. Castellant's price was not exorbitant, and by proper work could have been raised, and also advise that Mr. Prime should be let been raised, and also advise that Mr. Prime should be let alone when an opinion is wanted on pottery. His arti-cles on pottery and percelain are of no value, as they are, to a great extent, a compilation and a poor one at that, and as one practically connected with the art of pottery, I assert that it would be impossible to get any points from his writings, but what any one could have given be-fore his articles appeared. Yours sincerely, GEO. R. HALM. Halm Art Pottery Co., Sandy Hill, N. Y., March 18, 1878.

THE SHIPPING POINT OF GOLD. rothe Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: In your editorial to-day on our Finances, which I consider correct in the main, you make an error in saying that we are within 2 per cent of the shipping point of gold. The fact is we are less than Ia per cent—486 per £ being the shipping point—and yesterday's rate was 484. That is 2 cents on a £, or any \$\text{0}_{100}\$ per cent. As I always read your articles with interest, I want you to be correct. Yours, F. L. Neie-York, March 18, 1878.

[Answer.-The London Economist, in every issue paotes the shipping point at \$4 87. Every money editor in the city reaches the same figure. The rate of demand exchanges, as quoted by THE TRIBUNE and every other on the 14th and 15th, was from 84 87@\$4 8719@\$4 88-- and not \$4 84, as our correspondent states. Finally, the use of the term " 2 per cent " to signify the difference between \$4 8719 and \$4 8912, though not technically correct, is sanctioned by good usage here and in Europe, where the precise question is whether the £ is worth 487 or 489 per cent of the dollar. From anylother point of view it would, of course, be incorrect.-Ed.]

SECURING HELP FOR CHINA. to the Editor of The Tribune.

Siz: Noticing your article on the " Famine in Chine," n your issue of March 15, I am pleased to say that a movement in behalf of these starving people has been successfully made in the cities of Troy and Albany, and large sums are being sent forward through the house of Olyphant & Co., of Chius, who transmit by cable, at their own expense, all sums sent to them for this object.

The funds so sent are distributed by the American missionaries at Shangbal. atonaries at Bhanghai.

A concerted movement will be made in this city and in Brooklyn during the coming week, and it is hoped that every one will be interested. Seventy millions of our fellow-men are perishing. Shall we let them perish a God forbid.

New Tork, March 15, 1878.

THE MAINE LAW. LETTER FROM NEAL DOW-EDUCATING PUBLIC

OPINION UP TO PROHIBITION MEASURES.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I like THE TRIBUNE very much. It is a great many years now that we have been constant companions. I have acquired a great deal of invaluable information from it, besides entertainment in many ways. I would rather be without my dinner than forego The Tribune's regular visits, which are worth far more than the cost. There are a great many things that Tribune's regular visits, which are worth far more than the cost. Turning knows, and some which it doesn't know, one of which is the state of public opinion in Mame ou the iquor traffic. THE TRIBUNE has kindly intimated to ne—as if I were ignorant of it—that the straining of a law far beyond the demand of public opinion would in-evitably produce a reaction. In all our warfare against the grog shops we have had that truth constantly in view, and so have been careful to prepare the public mind for every new step in advance. In preparation for the original Maine Law, we worked up the public opinion to it in the first place. We have had several additional acts since, all in the direction of greater stringency. The original law was passed in the House by a vote of 86 to 40; in the Senate of 18 to 10; and in

by a vote of 86 to 40; in the Senate of 18 to 10; and in January, 1877, was passed an act far more stringent than any which preceded it, without a dissenting vote in either House. This act prohibited the manufacture of intoxicating liquors, except cider, under a penalty of \$1,000 fine, and three months in jail for every day in which a distiliery or brewery shall run. On the 12th or March last the fires were let down in all these places in Maine, and this action has been formally indorsed by both political parties in their State Conventions.

The hquor traffic lingers yet in Maine, secretly, in our cities and larger rowns, carried on almost exclusively by the lowest and vinest part of our foreign population, and we mean to extinguish it. You say truly that the committee of this Legislature report further legislation in expedient. So a committee did in 1866 exactly that, when I asked for a law to shut up our distilleries, breweries, and wine factories, but in 1877 the Legislature did it unanimously. This year I asked for penalties subteint to stop up the Irish whiskey dens, but do not got them. Next year we shall try again. Don't let The Tringuis forget that we understand perfectly how necessary it is not to overstrain public opinion.

Portland, Mc., March 10, 1878.

EUROPE AND THE SILVER BILL.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: The Allgemeine Zeitung is probably, of all papers in Germany, the one most generally regarded for its careful and thoughtful articles on every question in politics, finance, and social matters in general. In the issue of this day appears the second of two remarkable articles, entitled "The Decision in the Silver Ques-tion, and the European Creditors of the United States." I will not trouble you with the entire article; but the conclusion of that published to-day, reached as it is, after a very full and careful discussion of the whole subject, may interest your renders generally. It is as follows:

may interest your renders generally. It is as follows:

The United States will by this measure become just so much the poorer as the silver speculators and money exchangers are made richer. Europe will have the benefit of the rise in the price of silver, and in the great return to her of gold now in the United States. Germany will be enabled easily to get rid of the rest of her silver; and the shrewd speculators of the States belonging to the Latin Financial Union will not lose anything. The entre industry and manufactures of Europe will also, as I have shown, through the dimmished contribution hereafter of her spare capital to American enterprises, retain more capital for herself.

Lought to say that this article is perfectly temperate and thoughtful, indulies in no recruminations, and ar-

and thoughtful, indulges in no recriminations, and arrives at the above conclusions by a process of reasoning which seems perfectly unanswerable. I may also add that I have heard more than one man of property during my recent journeys through Germany declare that he rejoiced that hereafter European capital would be retained in Europe, and foster enterprises at home rather than those of the United States. There seems to be a general feeling that the money drawn from the United States as the result of sending back American bonds from Europe, however much it may prejudice industry in our own country, will tend to revive industry here. I remain, very respectfully, yours, Stuttgart, Germany, March 1, 1878. TRAVELLER

GIBBON ON THE RUSSIANS

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: The following quotation from Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," is interesting in connection with the present threatening attitude of the Russians before Constantinople. In speaking of the

Russian hostilities against the Greek or Byzantine Empire in the tenth century, Gibbon says:

The memory of these Arctic fleets that seemed to descend from the Polar Circle, left a deep impression of terror on the imperial City. By the vulgar of every rank it was asserted and believed that an equestrian statue in the square of Tauras was secretly inscribed with a prophecy how the Russians, in the last days, should become masters of Constantinople, in our own time a Russian aranament, instead of sailing from the Borysthenes, has circumnavianted the continent of Europe, and the Turkish capital has been threatened by a squadron of strong and lofty ships of war, each of which, with its naval science and thundering artillery, could have sunk or scattered a hundred canoes such as those of their ancestors. Perhaps the present generation may yet behold the accomplishment of the prediction, of which the size is unambiguous, and the date unquestionable. [Milman's Gibbon, vol v., p. 431.

New-Tork, March 18, 1878.

James L Raymond. pire in the tenth century, Gibbon says:

"BRITISH INTERESTS" AS A PLAY, To the Editor of The Tribune

Sin: Sir Wilfred Lawson generally makes france specches. He made one of his best the other day at Cockermouth, on the Eastern question, and the following bit is simply delightful. He said the policy of the Government might be thus illustrated: Grand theatrical performance! The piece called "Brit-ish Interests" will be played every night for the next

formight by Her Majesty's servants. The first Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Smith) will sing "Hearts of Oak." Lord John Manners, crowned with faurels and likes, will Lord John Madners, crowned with interes and mass, persons the sword exercise. Mr. Cross will dance the war dance. Mr. Cavendsh Bentinek will appear in the character of a Bashi-Bizouk. Lord Beaconsfield himself will poke up the British Llon till he rours again, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will take the money at the door. The band will play "Rule Britishma" the whole time, and the proceedings will conclude with a panorama, in which will be seen in the back-ground the British fleet sailing up and down the Dardanellos, the crews singing in childs:

Here we go up, up, up. Here we go down, down, down. Here we go round, round, round. New York, March 21, 1878.

THE CHEATING SCISSORS MAN.

To the Editor of The Tribune

Sin: The seissors man is to the fore again, entering into hamlets and shaking his fist in the faces of timid women, and, as it were, competiing them to buy his worthless wares. He break no law; he comes and isks you to buy his wares; he tells of his estates in Poland, which are just as substantial as if they were in Spain ; and if he is rather energetic in his methods, it is probably owing to his sanguine temperament. Still, in case you do not want poor scissors at an enormous price, it may be as well to try a retusal. An oppeal to the police, provided any be within call, seems to asve an electric effect upon the man. It is a pity that such a man should be encouraged in his depredations by success. Do not be afraid of him, if you can possibly help it; nor buy, unless you want to be cheated.

New-York, March 18, 1878.

A VICTIM.

NOT SUCH A LOVELY WILL AFTER ALL.

ro the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: In an article in Thursday's TRIBUNE,

on the with of the late Mrs. Ann D. Seaman, there we everal errors. In the first place, Mrs. Seaman had no nieces or nephews; her nearest relatives were cousing and second cousins. Her memory being much impaired at the time of making her will, she was persuaded to leave most of her large estate to those who monopolized her attention, and had no right to inherit it, leaving her nearest relatives entirely unprovided for. There is unither justice nor equity in the document. Vertas.

New-York, March 16, 1878.

480: the will which made so many people happy, made some people unhappy. We might have known how it would be. The will which everybody likes, it seems, is yet to be made, published and declared, -Ld.

MUSH AND MILK IN COLLEGE. To the Editor of The Tribune SIR: Those young men at Cornell who man-

age to live so cheapty should be commended. Did not Renjamin Franklin in his youth live for some time on much and milk? To live in that way requires self-devial. self-control, and moral courage—qualities offeneracter not cultivated to an alarming degree by the majority of college-students, and yet are so essential to success in life that they should be encouraged wherever they are found. If those young continuen abould wait until they could pursue their studies under more favorable conditions, circumstances might occur that would prevent them from going to college at all. One might as well any that Bayard Taylor should have staid at home until foliad saved money enough to travel in Europe as other people did, instead of starting with very small means to view it afoot.

M. D. C.

people did, inserview it afoot.

Fenn Fan, N. Y., March 10, 1878.

RUSSIA IN 1813 AND RUSSIA NOW.

Sir: In February, 1813, certain men of Liverpool thus expressed their southments toward the Russian people: "Be it known then that a set of hearst, true-hearted Britons, a fiveside at Sowerby's in Richmond Square, have paid into one of our banks 200, as some little aid to the distresses of those of their brothers, the